

CLAIMS

1. A powered apparatus comprising:
an internal combustion engine with a housing and a vertical crankshaft;
a utilitarian device having a body and a drive connector removably coupled to the crankshaft for receiving rotational force from the internal combustion engine; and
a support bearing fixedly connected to one of the body and the vertical crankshaft, and releasably engaging the other of the body and the vertical crankshaft, wherein weight of the utilitarian device is transferred through the support bearing to the internal combustion engine.
2. The utilitarian device as recited in claim 1 wherein the utilitarian device comprises an apparatus connected to the drive connector, wherein the apparatus is selected from the group consisting of an air blower, an air compressor, a pump, a chipper-shredder, a power washer, a vacuum, a chemical sprayer, and an electrical generator.
3. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein substantially all the weight of the utilitarian device is transferred through the support bearing to the internal combustion engine.
4. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising an engine coupling attached to the crankshaft and engaging the support bearing, the engine coupling having an aperture into which the drive connector is received.

5. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising flywheel attached to the crankshaft and having an engine coupling mounted thereon and removably engaged by the support bearing and by the drive connector.

6. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the internal combustion engine further comprises an engine coupling attached to the crankshaft and having an aperture; and
the drive connector of the utilitarian device comprises a shaft which is received in the aperture.

7. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 6 wherein the aperture of the engine coupling has a non-circular cross section; and the shaft of the drive connector has a cross section which mates with the non-circular cross section of the engine coupling.

8. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 6 wherein the shaft of the drive connector has splines; and the aperture of the engine coupling has grooves within which the splines are received.

9. A powered apparatus comprising:
- an internal combustion engine having a vertical crankshaft, and an engine coupling connected to the vertical crankshaft and having an aperture;
- a utilitarian device having a body and a drive shaft removably received in the aperture of the engine coupling; and
- a support bearing secured to one of the body and the engine coupling, and removably engaging the other of the body and the engine coupling, wherein weight of the utilitarian device is transferred through the support bearing to the internal combustion engine.
10. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 9 further comprising a flywheel connecting the engine coupling to the vertical crankshaft.
11. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein substantially all the weight of the utilitarian device is transferred through the support bearing to the internal combustion engine.
12. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the support bearing is secured to the body of the utilitarian device and removably engages the housing.
13. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the aperture of the engine coupling has a non-circular cross section; and the drive shaft has a cross section which mates with the non-circular cross section of that aperture.

14. The powered apparatus as recited in claim 13 wherein the drive shaft has splines; and the aperture of the engine coupling has grooves within which the splines are received.

15. A utilitarian device for connection to an internal combustion engine which has a housing, a crankshaft, and an engine coupling connected to the crankshaft, the utilitarian device comprising:

a body;

a drive member for removable connection to the engine coupling to receive rotational force from the internal combustion engine; and

a support bearing secured to the body to removably engage the engine coupling, wherein weight of the utilitarian device is transferred through the support bearing to the internal combustion engine.

16. The utilitarian device as recited in claim 15 wherein the utilitarian device comprises an apparatus connected to the drive member, wherein the apparatus is selected from the group consisting of an air blower, an air compressor, a pump, a chipper-shredder, a power washer, a vacuum, a chemical sprayer, and an electrical generator.

17. The utilitarian device as recited in claim 15 wherein the drive member comprises a shaft which is received in an aperture in the engine coupling.

18. The utilitarian device as recited in claim 17 wherein the aperture of the engine coupling has a non-circular cross section; and the shaft of the drive member has a cross section which mates with the non-circular cross section of that aperture.

19. The utilitarian device as recited in claim 17 wherein the shaft of the drive member has splines; and the aperture of the engine coupling has grooves within which the splines are received.